

R E V I E W.

Tuesday, April 14. 1713.

HER Majesty, in her Speech to the Parliament, has particularly mentioned the many Advantages obtain'd by this Peace, for her own Subjects—I am, and have always been of the Opinion, That the true Advantages of the Peace lye in the Use we, who are the Subjects, shall make of it, and I make no scruple to say, with due Submission to Her Majesty's Speech, that there are no Advantages at all obtain'd by the Peace—UNLESS—UNLESS, *what?* Says one, that wants to trap the Author of the Review; Now, *What is this Fellow going to Contradict the Queen?* Unless we please to take them Advantages. I explain my self thus: That the Advantages of this Peace will, or will not be real Advantages, as we improve, or abuse them, among our selves; and therefore it was that I said, whether the Conditions of the Peace were good or ill, the Consequences may be good if we please.

If by Strife, Party-Rage, irreconcilable Aversions, I continued Quarrelling among our selves, we resolve to defeat our selves of all the Benefit of the Peace; *we may do so*, and make it our Ruin, tho' the Conditions were *much better* than they are; if by general concurrence of Affection, and quiet, calm conduct, bearing with, and forbearing one another, we will go Hand in Hand to make the Peace advantageous to us, *we may do so*, tho' the Conditions were *as bad* as those that some People imagine they are.

The publick Dissatisfactions, which for some time have been express'd against the Consequences of the Peace, (*Pray observe*, I am not talking of the Conditions, but the Consequences) I say the publick Dissatisfactions, and our suggest'd Fears about the Consequence of the Peace, are reduc'd to two Generals.

1. The Danger of the Protestant Succession.

2. The Ruin of our Trade.

I have spoken to the first, and touching but lightly the Grounds which you think you have for your Fears of the Pretender, have rather apply'd to quicken you in Resolutions to keep him out. But I must add, upon reading Her Majesty's Speech, That what Her Majesty says, of a perfect Friendship between the Queen and the House of Hannover, be true,

as I see no room in Reason, *as well as in good Manners*, to doubt; some People have laid in a great Stock of something to be ashamed of hereafter; and if the present Ministry, together with Her present Majesty, are unfeignedly in the Interest of the Protestant Succession, and should go on to make it clear, past the Cavils of the Town, that they are so, as I own I always believ'd they would; How will many honest People say their all Prayers back again, *which they have turn'd of late* into Imprecations, rather than humble Petitions? But I leave them to Time and their own Convictions; *only saying this*, That I hope still for the time, when those who have always been willing to think the best, and could not give up the Queen and Ministry for Jacobites, shall no longer bear the Contempt of those that are Mistaken, and be insulted as *Turn-Coats* for mere Moderation.

The second thing our People are frighted at, in the affair of the Peace, is, *The Ruin of our Trade*. Now, Gentlemen, as to the coming of the Pretender; The danger of a furious Faction for his Interest here, and the Encouragement given them from our miserable divided Circumstances; these are such as I have said I will not answer for; I have said my Mind about it (*viz.*) That the Danger is among our selves: But as to Trade, I must directly oppose you there; The Notions entertain'd about it, are so foolish, so contradictory to the Sense of Trade, and to the nature of the Thing, that I cannot but speak to it.

I am not going to form a Discourse here of the Advantages of Trade peculiar to this Peace; I am no way writing in Praise of the several Advantages, let them stand and fall by their own Merit: But give me leave to tell you, That if on the other hand, Trade shall be no way better'd by Peace, *take it in general*, we must be suppos'd to have lost the Genius for Trade, which this Nation was always famous for; and therefore I must say, Peace shall encrease Trade, and extend Navigation; employ Hands, encrease Consumption, and bring in Wealth, *let it be what Peace it will*.

Is it possible that Trade shall reap no Benefit by Peace! Let me but Instance in a few things; (*viz.*) The

The Sea is open, Navigation free, Freights will fall to the usual Rate again; Wages of Ships, and Wages of Seamen will fall, Rates of Insurance, &c. The Merchant's hazard less, and his Disburse less: *Well*, what follows this? Foreign Goods will come cheaper to Market, that Cheapness will increase the Consumption; our own Goods will come cheaper to Foreign Markets, that Cheapness will increase the Demand.

These are manifest Advantages flowing from a Peace. *O, but the Peace will not last!* say some; That's nothing to the Argument I am upon; let us make these Advantages as long as it does last; you will allow they are, and must be real Advantages.

If it should fall out, that those People who say the Peace will not last, should be mistaken, and it should last as long as others believe it will; then those Advantages will appear: Mean time let us improve these Advantages while the Peace does last, that as Her Majesty says in Her Speech, *Her People may have it in their Power to repair by degrees what they have suffer'd during so long and so burthensome a War*; and give me leave to add, That they may be the better able to carry it on again, if this Peace should fail, and War be renew'd — For these Reasons, I say, since it is sure that there are real unavoidable Advantages to Trade by a Peace, let even the Peace now made be how it will, and last or not last as it will, yet let us make use of those Advantages while it does last.

Here the great Objection which I began with, meets me *full Butt*, as we call it; What, do you pretend to tell us of Advantages in Trade? Why the *Spanish* Trade is lost; the *French* will engross it all out of your Hands, the *Spaniards* are at their Mercy, and will be made to submit to any thing, and the *French* are falling into our Manufactures; so that there will be no need of us, and all the Money of the *Spanish West-Indies* will fall into the Hands of the *French*, by which they will be enabled at last to form that Universal Monarchy they have so often attempted!

I appeal to the whole Town, if this be not the general Cry; and tho' a greater Fallacy in Trade never was put upon the World, yet how eagerly it

is Espoused, how steadily Believed, and how melancholy many honest People are upon it, is scarcely Credible. I shall overthrow this Delusion with much Ease, and I believe to as much Satisfaction as any one can desire; and therefore, omitting the other Parts of Her Majesty's Speech, which otherwise I should have mentioned, I shall first be thorough with this of Trade, and particularly the suggested Mischief of the *French* taking from us *Spanish* Trade.

When I have cleared up this, I must be allowed to say something of that excellent Proposal recommended by the Queen to her Parliament, **CALMING MENS MINDS AT HOME**. That Peace with one another may not be interrupted, and the Nation thereby made incapable of cultivating the Peace abroad to our own Advantages.

While we bite and devour one another, while the Sword of Strife is drawn at Home, to what purpose will it be, that the Sword of War is sheathed from abroad?

If the Peace is not to our Minds, *I wish it were* but will our Quarrelling at Home make it better or worse? No body will pretend it will make it better; and *if worse*, I hope the worse the Peace the less need there is of making it still worse and worse.

Peace at Home may help us to bear the better that we dislike in the Peace Abroad; and if we will agree, the Advantages may be greater yet than they can be, tho' the Articles were better, if we disagree.

I shall, if I live to go thro' these things, speak little to the Improvement of Trade at Home, and the Fishery also; of which, tho' my Thoughts, I confess, differ from some general Opinions; yet I will give my Opinion and the Reasons, and let every one judge for themselves.

Mean time my present Task is to prove, That neither the *Spaniard* can carry on their Trade without us, nor the *French* rival us in assisting them; and if I do not do this unanswerably, then I think I know nothing of Trade in the World.